

Potassium channel mutants of the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and their use for screening eukaryotic potassium channels

The invention relates to processes for identifying inhibitors and activators of eukaryotic 5 potassium channels, in which a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is used whose endogenous potassium channels TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 are not expressed functionally, but which heterologously expresses a eukaryotic potassium channel to be studied. Other subject matters of the invention are mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells which do not express TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1; and the preparation and use of these mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells.

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Each cell is enclosed by a plasma membrane with a thickness of approximately 6 - 8 nm. This membrane determines the cell's dimensions and separates the cell content from its environment. All biomembranes are composed of a connected bilayer of lipid molecules, which bilayer accommodates a variety of membrane proteins. While 15 the lipid bilayer determines the basic structure of biomembranes, the proteins are responsible for most of their functions. Owing to its hydrophobic interior, the lipid bilayer acts as an impermeable barrier for most polar molecules. Only membrane proteins such as receptors, ion channels and transporters allow controlled ion flux and the transport of polar molecules (Alberts *et al.*, 1995). Thus, proteins contribute to 20 different ion concentrations in the cell's interior and its environment and govern the entry of nutrients and the exit of breakdown products. Most of the membrane proteins span the plasma membrane repeatedly, as do the ion channels, which thus belong to the group of the integral membrane proteins. These proteins have both hydrophobic regions, which span the lipid bilayer, and hydrophilic sections, which are exposed to 25 the aqueous medium on either side of the membrane. Ion channels are found in all cells and, in nerve cells, are responsible for the generation of action potentials (Alberts *et al.*, 1995). Ion channels can be differentiated on the basis of their different ion selectivity and with reference to their different opening and closing mechanisms.

30 Potassium channels are ubiquitous membrane proteins found both in excitable and in nonexcitable cells (for review see (Jan, L. Y. *et al.*, 1997). Open potassium channels shift the membrane potential closer to the potassium equilibrium potential and thus away from the threshold potential for triggering an action potential. Thus, potassium

channels strengthen the resting membrane potential, repolarizing the cell and in this way determine the length of the frequency of action potentials (Sanguinetti, M. C. et al., 1997; Wilde, A. A. et al., 1997; Wang, Q. et al., 1998). Owing to these functions, potassium channels also constitute the molecular cause for the generation of a number 5 of pathological situations and are thus an interesting target for the development of therapeutic agents.

The yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (hereinbelow *S. cerevisiae*) has three potassium channels, namely TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1. The potassium channel TRK1 (YJL129c) 10 belongs to the family of the "major facilitator" potassium permeases and, being a high-affinity potassium transporter, is responsible for the influx of potassium ions from the medium into the cell (Gaber, R. F. et al., 1988; Ko, C. H. et al., 1990; Ko, C. H. et al., 1991). The deletion mutant $\Delta trk1$ is viable and highly polarized on at least 10 mM K⁺ (Gaber, R. F. et al., 1988; Madrid, R. et al., 1998). A $\Delta trk1$ strain does not survive on 15 1 mM K⁺ (Gaber, R. F. et al., 1988).

The potassium channel TRK2 (YKR050w) also belongs to the family of the "major facilitator" potassium permeases and, being a low-affinity potassium transporter, is responsible for the influx of potassium ions from the medium into the cell (Ko, C. H. et al., 1990; Ko, C. H. et al., 1991; Madrid, R. et al., 1998). The phenotype of the $\Delta trk2$ 20 deletion mutant is less pronounced than in the case of the $\Delta trk1$ mutant. A $\Delta trk2$ strain also survives on 1 mM K⁺ (Ko, C. H. et al., 1990; Madrid, R. et al., 1998).

The potassium channel TOK1 (also known as DVK1 or YORK) is responsible for the influx of potassium ions from the medium into the cell (Ketchum, K. A. et al., 1995; Fairman, C. et al., 1999). However, the direction of the ion fluxes is reversible, and, 25 depending on the culture conditions, can therefore also take the opposite direction (Fairman, C. et al., 1999).

The deletion mutant $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ has already been described repeatedly (Ko, C. H. et al., 1990; Ko, C. H. et al., 1991; Madrid, R. et al., 1998; Fairman, C. et al., 1999).

30 In the past, this mutant was also used for identifying and describing K⁺ channels of higher eukaryotes by complementation of the phenotype. Described to date is the

complementation by the *inward rectifier* channels KAT1 cDNA (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), HKT1 cDNA (*Triticum aestivum*), IRK1 (*Mus musculus*) and HKT1 K⁺/Na⁺ transporters (*Triticum aestivum*) (Tang, W. et al., 1995; Smith, F. W. et al., 1995; Goldstein, S. A. et al., 1996; Nakamura, R. L. et al., 1997). In addition, it has been described that the 5 overexpression of TOK1 and its homologue ORK1 from *Drosophila melanogaster* in yeast cells can complement the growth deficiency of the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ mutant (Fairman, C. et al., 1999).

However, the study of a large number of eukaryotic potassium channels and the 10 identification of substances which can modify the activity of the potassium channels is difficult since, for example, the human channels HERG1 or Kv1.5 cannot complement the lethal phenotype of $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ on 5 mM KCl. Thus, no screening is possible.

The invention relates to a process for identifying inhibitors of a eukaryotic potassium 15 channel, in which

- a) a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is used which does not express the three endogenous potassium channels TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1;
- b) a eukaryotic potassium channel is expressed heterologously in this mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell;
- c) the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is incubated together with a substance to be tested;

and

- d) the effect of the substance to be tested on the eukaryotic potassium channel is determined.

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In the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell used in the method, the genes TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 (SEQ ID NO. 1, SEQ ID NO. 2 and SEQ ID NO. 3) are switched off ($\Delta trk1$, $\Delta trk2$, $\Delta tok1$), preferably by knock-out, it being preferred for large portions of the genes to be deleted.

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The eukaryotic potassium channel used in the process is the potassium channel to be studied, the channel for which inhibitors or activators are to be identified.

For example, the eukaryotic potassium channel is a human HERG1, a human Kv1.5, a human ROMK2 or gPIRK1 (guinea pig) channel. The eukaryotic potassium channel preferably has the natural sequence of the potassium channel in question, for example 5 encoded by one of the sequences SEQ ID NO. 4, SEQ ID. NO. 5, SEQ ID NO. 7 (ROMK2) or SEQ ID NO. 6. However, the natural sequence of the potassium channel can also be modified, for example mutated.

Preferably, the nucleotide sequence encoding the eukaryotic potassium channel is integrated into a yeast expression plasmid, for example p423 GPD3 or a vector, for 10 example of the pRS 42x or pRS 32x series, and the recombinant expression plasmid is introduced into the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell.

The process is intended to identify substances which have an effect on the eukaryotic potassium channel. These substances inhibit the growth of the mutated *S. cerevisiae* 15 cell. A substance to be studied which inhibits the heterologously expressed eukaryotic potassium channel causes the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell – since it does not express endogenous potassium channels - to divide and multiply with greater difficulty or more slowly or, in a particular embodiment of the invention, to die.

20 The effect of the substance to be tested can be determined for example directly by measuring the optical density at 600 nm or with the aid of a growth reporter which is expressed constitutively in the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell. The constitutively expressed growth reporter preferably encodes a protein which either shows fluorescence or luminescence itself or which participates in a reaction which gives a fluorescence or 25 luminescence signal. The sequence encoding the growth reporter is preferably of a vector. Suitable growth reporters are, for example, the LacZ gene for β -galactosidase or acid phosphatase PH03, both of which are expressed under the control of a constitutive yeast promoter. The measurable fluorescence or luminescence allows conclusions regarding the cell count of the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells. If no, or less, 30 fluorescence or luminescence is measured, then the sample in question contains fewer mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells. If fewer mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells are present, then the substance to be tested has an inhibitor effect on the eukaryotic potassium channel.

The processes described can be automated with particular ease and carried out in parallel for a multiplicity of substances to be tested. In particular embodiments of the invention, two or more processes are carried out in a comparative fashion, where two 5 or more mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells are analyzed in a comparative fashion. These mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells are preferably incubated together with the same amount of substance to be tested, but express the eukaryotic potassium channel in question to a different extent. In another particular embodiment of the invention, mutated *S. cerevisiae* cells which express the eukaryotic potassium channel in question to the 10 same extent, but which are incubated together with different amounts of substance to be tested, are analyzed in a comparative fashion.

Subject matter of the invention is also a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell in which the endogenous potassium channels TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 are not expressed. A further 15 embodiment relates to a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell in which the genes TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 are switched off; these genes have preferably been removed by knock-out in their entirety or in part, or have been mutated. A further embodiment relates to a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell which is deposited at the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 20 Braunschweig) in compliance with the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on the International recognition of the deposit of microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedure; deposit number DSM 13197.

A particular embodiment of the invention relates to a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell which heterologously expresses a eukaryotic potassium channel, the eukaryotic potassium 25 channel preferably being a human potassium channel, for example a HERG1, Kv1.5 or gplRK1 or a human Kv 4.3 [Genbank Accession Number AF 187963], TASK (Genbank Assession Number AF 006823] or ROMK2 [Genbank Accession Number U 12542] and where the potassium channel has the natural sequence or can be mutated.

30 The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell which does not express the potassium channels TRK, TRK2 and TOK1, the genes TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 having been destroyed or deleted by knock-out.

The mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell can be used for example in processes for identifying substances which inhibit or activate the activity of the eukaryotic potassium channel, or it can be part of a test kit which can be used for example for determining toxic substances.

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The invention also relates to a process for identifying activators of a eukaryotic potassium channel, in which

- a) a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is used which does not express the three endogenous potassium channels TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1;
- 10 b) a eukaryotic potassium channel is expressed heterologously in this mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell;
- c) the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is incubated together with a substance to be tested;
- and
- 15 d) the effect of the substance to be tested on the eukaryotic potassium channel is determined.

The invention furthermore relates to a process for identifying activators of a eukaryotic potassium channel, in which

- 20 a) a mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is used which does not express the three endogenous potassium channels TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1;
- b) a eukaryotic potassium channel is expressed heterologously in this mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell;
- c) the mutated *S. cerevisiae* cell is incubated together with a substance to be tested in the presence of an inhibitor of the eukaryotic potassium channel;
- and
- 25 d) the effect of the substance to be tested on the eukaryotic potassium channel is determined.

30

The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of a medicament, in which

- a) an Inhibitor of a eukaryotic potassium channel is identified,

- b) the Inhibitor is prepared or isolated by known chemical processes, and
- c) physiologically acceptable additives are added to the inhibitor.

The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of a medicament, in which

- 5 a) an activator of a eukaryotic potassium channel is identified,
- b) the activator is prepared or isolated by known chemical processes, and
- c) physiologically acceptable additives are added to the activator.

Figures:

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Figure 1: Diagnostic PCR for verifying the triple knock-out. Explanation of the rows/lanes in the gel, see text, Example 2, triple knock-out.

15 Figure 2: Growth of strains YM168 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$) and YM182 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) on DPM medium with defined KCl concentrations at pH 6.5.

Figure 3: Growth of strains YM189 and YM190 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$), and YM194 and YM195 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) on DPM medium with 5 mM KCl + 2 mM RbCl at pH 6.5.

20 Figure 4: Growth of strains YM189 and YM191 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$), and YM194 and YM196 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) on DPM medium with 5 mM KCl + 2 mM CsCl at pH 6.5.

Figure 5: Growth of strains YM194 and YM195 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) in DPM medium with 5 mM KCl + 1 mM RbCl at pH 6.5. („KON“ = control)

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Figure 6: Growth of strains YM194 and YM196 (in $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) in DPM medium with 5 mM KCl + 1 mM CsCl at pH 6.5. („KON“ = control)

30 Figure 7: Expression of the human potassium channel HERG1 in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ in DPM -HIS/-TRP 5mM KCl medium in 96-well ELISA plates in the presence of 0.5 mM CsCl as activator.

The various inhibitors were employed at a final concentration of in each case 30 μ M. To measure the cell density, a commercially available LacZ reporter system pYX232 by Ingenius (cat. No. MBV-032-10) was transformed into the yeast strains to be studied. Expression of the LacZ reporter gene was under the control of the constitutive

5 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* promotor TPI for the triose phosphate isomerase gene. The LacZ enzyme activity was measured via detecting the luminescence after 24 hours' growth (density of the starter culture: 0.01 OD₆₂₀) using a commercially available assay system by TROPIX. The values correspond to the average of in each case 4 measurements \pm SD. The two different assays were carried out independently

10 of each other on two different days.

Figure 8: Expression of the human potassium channel HERG1 in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ in DPM -HIS 5mM KCl medium in 96-well ELISA plates in the presence of 0.5 mM CsCl as activator.

15 The various inhibitors were employed at a final concentration of in each case 30 μ M. The cell density was measured after 38 hours' growth (density of the starter culture: 0.03 OD₆₂₀) via determination of the optical density at a wavelength of 620 nm. The values corresponded to the average of in each case 4 measurements \pm SD.

20 Figure 9: Growth of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* wild-type strain in DPM -HIS/-TRP 5mM KCl medium in 96-well ELISA plates in the presence of 0.5 mM CsCl. The various inhibitors were employed at a final concentration of in each case 30 μ M. To measure the cell density, a commercially available LacZ reporter system pYX232 by Ingenius (cat. No. MBV-032-10) was transformed into the yeast strains to be studied.

25 Expression of the LacZ reporter gene was under the control of the constitutive *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* promotor TPI for the triose phosphate isomerase gene. The LacZ enzyme activity was measured via detecting the luminescence after 24 hours' growth (density of the starter culture: 0.01 OD₆₂₀) using a commercially available assay system by TROPIX.

30 The values correspond to the average of in each case 4 measurements \pm SD. The two different assays were carried out independently of each other on two different days.

Figure 10: Growth of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* wild-type strain in DPM medium in 96-well ELISA plates in the presence of 5mM KCl or in the presence of 80mM KCl. The inhibitors Ziprasidone and Pimozide were employed at a final concentration of in 5 each case 30 μ M. The cell density was measured after 24 hours' growth (density of the starter culture: 0.01 OD₆₂₀) via determination of the optical density at a wavelength of 620 nm. The values corresponded to the average of in each case 4 measurements \pm SD.

10 Figure 11: Expression of the human potassium channel HERG1 in triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$, and in the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ on DPM -HIS medium in the presence of 5mM KCl and 0.5 mM CsCl as activator.
1: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon expression of the blank vector p423GPD as negative control. 2: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon 15 expression of p423GPD-TRK1 as positive control. 3: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon expression of p423GPD-HERG1. 4: Growth of the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ upon expression of p423GPD-HERG1. The vectors and constructs used are explained in the patent application (see pages 12 et seq. and 15 et seq.).

20 Figure 12: Expression of the human potassium channel Kv1.5 in triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$, and in the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ on DPM -HIS medium in the presence of 5mM KCl and 2 mM RbCl as activator.
1: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon expression of the blank vector p423GPD as negative control. 2: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon 25 expression of p423GPD-TRK1 as positive control. 3: Growth of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ upon expression of p423GPD-Kv1.5. 4: Expression of the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ upon expression of p423GPD-Kv1.5. The vectors and constructs used are explained in the patent application (see pages 12 et seq. and 15 et seq.).

Figure 13: Expression of the human potassium channel ROMK2 and of the yeast vector p423GPD as negative control in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ in DPM -HIS 5mM KCl medium in 96-well ELISA plates.

The cell density was measured after 24 hours' growth (density of the starter culture: 5 0.01 OD₆₂₀) via determination of the optical density at a wavelength of 620 nm. The values corresponded to the average of in each case 4 measurements \pm SD.

Figure 14: Plasmid map of p423.GPD-ROMK2.

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Examples:

Materials and strains

15 Media

YPD (complete yeast medium): 1% Bacto yeast extract, 2% Bacto peptone, 2% Bacto agar, 2% glucose.

SC (synthetic complete) Medium: 0.67% Bacto yeast nitrogen base, amino acids, 2% glucose.

20 Sporulation medium: 1% potassium acetate, amino acids.

5-FOA medium: 0.67% Bacto yeast nitrogen base, amino acids, Uracil (50 µg/ml), 2% sugar (galactose or glucose), 0.1% 5-FOA

All media are described in: (Fink, G. R. et al., 1991)

25 Amino acid dropout mix:

L-alanine 2 g; L-arginine 2 g; L-asparagine*H₂O 2.27 g; L-aspartic acid 2 g;

L-cysteine*HCl 2.6 g; L-glutamine 2 g; L-glutamic acid 2 g; glycine 2 g; myoinositol 2 g; L-isoleucine 2 g; L-methionine 2 g; PABA 0.2 g; L-phenylalanine 2 g; L-proline 2 g; L-serine 2 g; L-threonine 2 g; L-tyrosine 2 g; L-valine 2 g.

30

Stock solutions for marker amino acids:

	mM	g/l	
Adenine (100x)	30	5.53	heating (up to not more than 60°C)
Leucine (60x)	100	13.12	heating
Lysine (100x)	100	18.26	-
Histidine (200x)	60	12.57	-
Tryptophan (100x)	40	8.17	-
Uracil (100x)	20	2.24	heating in 0.5% NaHCO ₃ solution

Vitamin stock (50 ml): biotin 20 µg/l; calcium pantothenate 40 µg/l; thiamine 40 µg/l.

5 Defined potassium medium (DPM): for 1.5 l (2x stock):

(NH ₄) ₂ HPO ₄	8 mM	3.2 g
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	29 mM	11.5 g
MgSO ₄	2 mM	0.8 g (or 6 ml of 1 M stock)
CaCl ₂	0.2 mM	90 µg (or 1.2 ml of 0.5 M stock)

10 Vitamin stock 120 µl

Amino acid dropout mix	6 g
Lysine	330 ml of 100x stock
Adenine	30 ml of 100x stock

→ bring to pH 6.5 (or another pH) with HCl, autoclave

15 Glucose 2 % from 40 % stock

KCl from 1 M stock

essential amino acids (with the exception of Lys/Ade) from stocks

Agar

Buffer and solutions:

TE buffer: Tris/HCl (pH 7.5) 10 mM; EDTA (pH 8.0) 1 mM;

TAE buffer: Tris 40 mM; EDTA 1 mM; acetic acid 0.2 mM;

SSC buffer (20x): NaCl 3 M; sodium citrate*2 H₂O 0.3 M;

5 Gel loading buffer: Bromphenol Blue 0.05% (w/v); sucrose 40% (w/v); EDTA, pH 8.0 0.1 M; SDS 0.5% (w/v);

Hybridization buffer: SSC 5x; SDS 0.1% (w/v); dextran sulfate 5% (w/v); stop reagent 1:20;

Buffer A (sterile): Tris-HCl 100 mM; NaCl, pH 9.5 300 mM;

10 Depurination solution: HCl 0.25 M;

Denaturation solution: NaCl 1.5 M; NaOH 0.5 M;

Neutralization solution: NaCl 1.5 M; Tris, pH 8.0 0.5 M.

15 Oligonucleotides (PCR primers):

Name	Sequence (5' → 3')	RE
TRK1-FL-BamHI-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 7: GCG'GATCCATGCATTAGAAGAACGATGAGTAG	BamH I
TRK1-FL-PstI-Re	SEQ ID NO. 8: AGGTTCTGCTGCA'GTTGGTGT	PstI
TRK1-FL-PstI-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 9: ACACCAACTGCA'GCAGAACCT	PstI
TRK1-FL-Xhol-Re	SEQ ID NO. 10: CGC'TCGAGTTAGAGCGTTGTGCTGCTCCT	Xhol
TRK1-Dia-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 11: CCTTACCATTAGCATCACTGAT	---
TRK1-Dia-Re1	SEQ ID NO. 12: CTATTAACCATTCTCCGCTG	---
URA-Rev	SEQ ID NO. 13: GATTATCTCGTT CCTGCAGGT	---
TRK2-DEL-5-Fo-B	SEQ ID NO. 14: CAC'GTACGTCCAGCACAATTCACAACAGCT	BsWI
TRK2-DEL-5-Re	SEQ ID NO. 15: CAG'TCGACCTGGATGACGT CCTCTTAGCTG	SaI
TRK2-DEL-3-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 16: CAGAT'ATCATGCTGCCAAGTGACAAACTG	EcoR V
TRK2-DEL-3-Re	SEQ ID NO. 17: TCA'CTAGTTGTTGATGGCTTGGTTGGT	Spel
TRK2-Dia-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 18:	---

	GCGAAGAATAGGATGAGATGTG	
TRK2-Dia-Re1	SEQ ID NO. 19: TTGTCGTGGGTCTTCTCTGG	---
KAN-Rev	SEQ ID NO. 20: GCTACCTTGCCATGTTCAGAA	---
TOK1-DEL-5-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 21: CAC'GTACGGCAAATTATCGAGACTCTGCGA	BsWI
TOK1-DEL-5-Re	SEQ ID NO. 22: AGG'TCGACCATTGCCATATCCCAGCGT	SaI
TOK1-DEL-3-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 23: TGGAT'ATCACCTGATAACGCC	EcoRV
TOK1-DEL-3-Re	SEQ ID NO. 24: CAA'CTAGTGCATACCAGTAGTATGAGACATGCTTG	Spel
TOK1-Dia-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 25: CCTGAGTACTCAGTACCATCTTG	---
TOK1-Dia-Re1	SEQ ID NO. 26: CTGTAGATGCTGGCATG	---
Kv1.5-GFP-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 27: TACG'TCGACATGGAGATGCCCTGGTG	Sall
Kv1.5-GFP-Re	SEQ ID NO. 28: TACG'TCGACATCTGTTCCGGCTGGTG	Sall
HERG1-GFP-Fo	SEQ ID NO. 29: TACAT'CGATATGCCGGTGCAGGG	ClaI
HERG1-GFP-Re	SEQ ID NO. 30: TACG'TCGACACTGCCGGTCCGA	Sall

Vectors:

5 Bacterial vectors

Name	Size (bp)	Genes
pcDNA3 (<i>Invitrogen</i>)	5446	CMV prom., T7 prom., polylinker, Sp6 prom., BGH poly(A), SV40 prom., SV 40 ori, Neomycin ^R , SV 40 poly(A), ColE1 ori, Amp ^R
pcDNA3.1 (+/-) (<i>Invitrogen</i>)	5432	CMV prom., T7 prom./priming site, MCS, pcDNA3.1 reverse priming site, BGH poly (A), F1 ori, SV40 prom., SV 40 ori, Neomycin ^R , SV 40 poly (A), ColE1 ori, Amp ^R

pUG6	4009	<i>loxP</i> -TEF2 prom.-kanMX- <i>loxP</i> -TEF2 term., ori, Amp ^R
pCR®-Blunt II-TOPO	3519	<i>lac</i> prom./op., M13 reverse prim. site, LacZ- α ORF, SP6 prom. prim. site, MCS, TOPO™ cloning site, T7 prom. prim. site, M13 (-20) forward prim. site, M13 (-40) prim. site, fusion point, <i>ccdB</i> lethal gene ORF, <i>kan</i> gene, (<i>kan</i> prom., kanamycin resistance gene ORF), zeocin resistance ORF, pMB1 origin (pUC-derived)
pCR® II-TOPO	3900	LacZ- α gene, M13 reverse prim. site, SP6 prom., MCS, T7 prom., M13 (-20) forward prim. site, M13 (-40) forward prim. site, f1 origin, kanamycin resistance ORF, ampicillin resistance ORF, pMB1 origin (pUC-derived)

Yeast vectors

Name	Size(bp)	Genes
pSH47	6786	CEN6/ARSH4, URA3, CYC1 term., CRE, GAL1 prom., Amp
p414 GAL1	5474	CEN6/ARSH4, TRP1, CYC1 term., GAL1 prom., Amp ^R
p416 GAL1	5584	CEN6/ARSH4, URA3, CYC1 term., GAL1 prom., Amp ^R
p416 ADH	6624	CEN6/ARSH4, URA3, CYC1 term., ADH prom., Amp ^R
p423 GPD3	6678	2 μ , HIS3, CYC1 term., GPD3 prom., Amp ^R
p426 GAL1	6417	2 μ , URA3, CYC1 term., GAL1 prom., Amp ^R
p426 GAL1-yEGFP3	7140	2 μ , URA 3, CYC1 term., yEGFP3, GAL1 prom., Amp ^R
p426 GAL1-SP-yEGFP3	7227	2 μ , URA 3, CYC1 term., N-terminal 24 aa of Ste2, yEGFP3, GAL1 prom., Amp ^R

Strains:

5 Bacterial strains: DH5 α ; One Shot™ TOP10 (*Invitrogen*)

Yeast strains:

All yeast strains generated for this work are based on the diploid wild-type strain:

W303 MAT α/α ade2, his3-11-15, leu2-3-112, trp1-1, ura3-1, can1-100;

10 ATCC No. 208352.

Strain	Original Name	Mating type	Genes
YM 96	w303	MAT α/α	ade2, his3-11-15, leu2-3-112, trp1-1, ura3-1, can1-100
YM 97	w303	MAT α	ade2, his3-11-15, leu2-3-112, trp1-1, ura3-1, can1-100
YM 98	w303	MAT α	ade2, his3-11-15, leu2-3-112, trp1-1, ura3-1, can1-100

The following yeast strains were generated:

Strain	Original Name	Mating type	Genes (with the exception of ade2, his3-11-15, leu2-3-112, trp1-1, ura3-1, can1-100)
YM 123	Δ trk1 in YM 96	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG
YM 124	Δ trk1 in YM 96	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG
YM 139	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MAT α/α	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM140	Δ tok1 in YM 123	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 141	Δ tok1 in YM 123	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 142	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MAT α/α	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 143	Δ tok1 in YM 124	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM144	Δ tok1 in YM 124	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP

YM 154	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MAT α	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 155	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MATa	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 156	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MATa	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 157	Δ tok1 in YM 96	MAT α	tok1::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 158	Δ trk2 in YM 96	MAT α	trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 159	Δ trk2 in YM 96	MATa	trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 160	Δ trk2 in YM 96	MATa	trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 161	Δ trk2 in YM 96	MAT α	trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 162	Δ tok1 in YM 123	MAT α	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP
YM 163	Δ tok1 in YM 123	MAT α	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP
YM 164	Δ tok1 in YM 124	MATa	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP
YM 165	Δ tok1 in YM 124	MATa	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP
YM 166	YM 124 x YM 160	MATa	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 167	YM 124 x YM 160	MATa	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 168	YM 124 x YM 160	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG; trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 169	YM 124 x YM 160	MAT α	trk1::hisG-URA3-hisG, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 182	Δ trk2 in YM 165	MATa	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 183	YM 166	MATa	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 184	YM 168	MATa	trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 185	Kv1.5-pRS426- Gal1-yEGFP3 in YM 97	MATa	pRS426-GAL1 with Kv1.5-GFP3, trk1::hisG, tok1::loxP, trk2::loxP-KanMX-loxP
YM 186	Kv1.5-pRS426-	MATa	pRS426-GAL1 with N24 Ste2-Kv1.5-GFP3,

	Gal1-SP-yEGFP3 in YM 97		trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 187	Kv1.5-pRS426-Gal1-yEGFP3 in YM 182	MATa	pRS426-GAL1 with Kv1.5-GFP3, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 188	Kv1.5-pRS426-Gal1-SP-yEGFP3 in YM 182	MATa	pRS426-GAL1 with N24 Ste2-Kv1.5-GFP3, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 189	p423-GPD3 in YM 168	MATa	p423-GPD3, trk1:: <i>hisG-URA3-hisG</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 190	Kv1.5-p423-GPD3 in YM 168	MATa	p423-GPD3 with Kv1.5, trk1:: <i>hisG-URA3-hisG</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 191	HERG-p423-GPD3 in YM 168	MATa	p423-GPD3 with HERG, trk1:: <i>hisG-URA3-hisG</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 192	HCN2-p423-GPD3 in YM 168	MATa	p423-GPD3 with HCN2, trk1:: <i>hisG-URA3-hisG</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 193	IRK1-p423-GPD3 in YM 168	MATa	p423-GPD3 with IRK1, trk1:: <i>hisG-URA3-hisG</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 194	p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 195	Kv1.5-p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3 with Kv1.5, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>
YM 196	HERG-p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3 with HERG, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP-KanMX-loxP</i>

YM 197	HCN2-p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3 with HCN2, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP</i> -KanMX- <i>loxP</i>
YM 198	IRK1-p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3 with IRK1, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP</i> -KanMX- <i>loxP</i>
YM 199	TRK1-p423-GPD3 in YM 182	MATa	p423-GPD3 with TRK1, trk1:: <i>hisG</i> , tok1:: <i>loxP</i> , trk2:: <i>loxP</i> -KanMX- <i>loxP</i>

Cloned potassium channels:

A)

5 Systematic name	KCNA5
Synonyms	Kv1.5, (HK2, HPCN1)
Family	voltage-gated potassium channel, shaker-related subfamily (member No. 5), delayed rectifier
Chromosomal localization	12p13.32-p13.31
10 Accession	NID g4504818
Protein	613 aa, 67 kD
Distribution in the tissue	heart, pancreatic islets and insulinoma
Homologs	mKcna5 (<i>Mus musculus</i>), 70% with hHCN4
References	(Roberds, S. L. et al., 1991; Curran, M. E. et al., 1992; Snyders, D. J. et al., 1993)
15	

B)

Systematic name	HCN2
Synonyms	BCNG2 (brain cyclic nucleotide gated channel), HAC1
20 Family	hyperpolarization-activated and cyclic nucleotide gate potassium channel, belongs to the superfamily of the voltage-gated potassium channels
Chromosomal localization	19p13.3

Accession NID g4996893 g4775348
 Protein 889 aa
 Function pacemaker
 Distribution in the tissue brain, heart
 5 Homologs mHcn2 (*Mus musculus*)
 References (Ludwig, A. et al., 1999)

C)

Systematic name KCNH2
 10 Synonyms HERG1 (longer splice variant)
 Family voltage-gated potassium channel, eag related subfamily,
 member No. 2
 Chromosomal localization 7q35-q36
 Accession NID g4557728 g4156210
 15 Properties channel activation by K⁺ channel regulator 1 accelerated
 References (Taglialatela, M. et al., 1998; Itoh, T. et al., 1998)

D)

Systematic name KCNJ2 (guinea pig)
 20 Synonyms Kir2.1, IRK1
 Family inwardly rectifying potassium channel
 Occurrence in the tissue brain, heart, lung, kidney, placenta, skeletal musculature
 References (Tang, W. et al., 1995)

25 Methods:

ROMK2 (see appendix "Sequence ROMK2")

PCR:

30 Protocol for Powerscript polymerase (*PAN Biotech*):

Mix for lower reagent (hotstart protocol) (25 µl):

3 μ l H₂O; 2.5 μ l 10x OptiPerform™ III buffer, pH 9.2; 10 μ l 1.25 mM dNTPs (= 200 μ M);
 1.5 μ l forward primer (20 pmol/ μ l); 1.5 μ l reverse primer (20 pmol/ μ l); 1.5 μ l 50 mM MgCl₂ (= 1.25 mM); 5 μ l 5x OptiZyme™ enhancer.

5 Mix for upper reagent (35 μ l):

23 μ l H₂O; 3.5 μ l 10x OptiPerform™ III buffer; 1.5 μ l 50 mM MgCl₂; 0.5 μ l PowerScript DNA polymerase; 7 μ l 5x OptiZyme™ enhancer.

PCR program (hotstart):

- 10 1. 1 min at 94°C
- 2. 1 min at 94°C
- 3. 1.5 minutes at 50-55°C (depending on primer)
- 4. 4 minutes at 69-72°C (depending on polymerase)
- 5. Repeat 27x from 2.
- 15 6. 4°C ∞
- 7. End.

Protocol for AmpliTaq polymerase (*Perkin Elmer*):

Mix for upper reagent (hotstart protocol) (50 μ l):

20 18.1 μ l H₂O; 4.2 μ l 10x buffer II; 16.7 μ l dNTPs; 2.5 μ l forward primer; 2.5 μ l reverse primer; 6 μ l 25 mM MgCl₂ (= 1.5 mM).

Mix for lower reagent (50 μ l):

42 μ l H₂O; 5 μ l 10x buffer II; 1 μ l AmpliTaq polymerase; 2 μ l template.

25 DNA purification

Purification of PCR reactions: The purification of PCR amplification products was carried out using the High Pure PCR Product Purification Kit (Roche)

Phenol extraction: Make up sample volume to 200 µl with TE buffer. Add 200 µl of phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1), mix and spin for 1 minute at maximum speed. Transfer top phase into new Eppendorf tube, add 200 µl of chloroform/isoamyl alcohol, mix, spin for 1 minute. Remove top phase, then precipitate with ethanol.

- 5 Ethanol precipitation: To a sample volume of approx. 200 µl pipette 5 µl 5 M NaCl and 20 µl 3 M NaAc (pH 5.7). Add 2.5 volumes of 100% ethanol, mix, store for at least 30 minutes or longer at -20°C, spin for 10 minutes at 4°C, wash the pellet in 170 µl of 70% cold ethanol, spin for 3 minutes, and dry pellet at 37°C and resuspend in 30 µl of H₂O.
- 10 Isolation of plasmid DNA from *E. coli*: The isolation of plasmid DNA from *E. coli* overnight cultures was carried out using the *QIAprep Spin Miniprep Kit Protocol* (Qiagen)

DNA preparation from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*:

- 15 Incubate the yeast cells overnight at 30°C in 10 ml of YPD, in the morning: spin for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm, and resuspend pellet in 500 µl of 1 M sorbitol, 0.1 M EDTA (pH 7.5), and transfer into an Eppendorf tube. Add 50 µl of Zymolase (5 mg/ml, in sorbitol/EDTA), incubate for 1 hour at 37°C and spin for 1 minute. Resuspend the pellet in 500 µl 50 mM Tris, 20 mM EDTA (pH 7.4). Add 50 µl 10% SDS, mix
- 20 thoroughly and incubate for 30 minutes at 65°C, add 200 µl 5 M KAc, place on ice for 1 hour and spin for 10 minutes. Transfer the supernatant (approx. 650 µl) into a new Eppendorf tube, add 1 volume of isopropanol, mix gently and leave to stand for 5 minutes. Either spin down briefly or extract precipitated DNA with a glass hook and dry the pellet in the air. Resuspend the pellet or the DNA in 150 µl of TE buffer and
- 25 dissolve for 10 minutes at 65°C.

DNA cloning techniques: All DNA cloning techniques were carried out following standard protocols.

- 30 Yeast transformation (lithium acetate method):
Incubate the yeast strain to be transformed overnight at 30°C on the shaker in 5 ml of suitable medium; in the morning dilute the overnight culture with suitable medium

(OD₆₀₀ = 0.4-0.5) and incubate for a further 2 hours on the shaker at 30°C (OD₆₀₀ = 0.4-0.8). Spin for 3 minutes at 2500 rpm, wash pellet with 25 ml of sterile H₂O, spin for 3 minutes at 2500 rpm; resuspend pellet in 1 ml of LITE (100 mM LiAc, TE pH 7.5) and transfer suspension into an Eppendorf tube. Incubate for 5 minutes at RT, spin for 5 sec (Quickspin); wash pellet with 1 ml of 100 mM LiAc, quick-spin; depending on the cell density, resuspend pellet in 200-400 µl of 100 mM LiAc and divide into 50 µl aliquots.

Add the following in the exact sequence stated:

- 240 µl PEG (50%), mix suspension by gently pipetting
- 10 36 µl 1 M LiAc, mix suspension by gently pipetting
 - 10 µl ss-sperm DNA (stored at -20°C; prior to use, heat for 10 minutes at 80-90°C, then transfer to ice)
 - 2-3 µg plasmid DNA (or 8-10 µl of Miniprep in the case of knock-out transformation), mix suspension by gently pipetting
- 15 Incubate transformation reaction for 30 minutes at 30°C in an overhead rotator at slow speed
 - Transformation reaction for 15 minutes at 42°C
 - Quick-spin, resuspend pellet in 200 µl of TE buffer (in the case of knock-out: resuspend pellet in 300 µl of YPD and incubate in an overhead rotator for 4 hours at 20 30°C
 - Plate 100 µl per agar plate (in the case of knock-out of all of the reaction) and incubate for 3-4 days at 30°C

Sequencing: ABI PRISM™ red. protokoll/AmpliTaq® FS 1/4 BigDyeTerminator

Reaction:

Premix	2 μ l
DNA template	
ss DNA	50 ng
ds DNA	250 ng
PCR products (0.2-5 kB)	10 – 50 ng
Primer	3-10 pmol
H ₂ O to final volume	10 μ l

Thermocycler protocol (25 cycles):

1. 15 seconds at 96°C
- 5 2. 15 seconds at 96°C
3. 10 seconds at 55°C
4. 4 minutes at 60°C
5. return to 2., 24x
6. 4°C ∞
- 10 7. End.

Purification reaction (Centri Sep Spin Columns, *Princeton Separations*):

Pre-soak column with 750 μ l of H₂O for 30 minutes; drain liquid; spin for 2 minutes at 3000 rpm; make up reaction to 20 μ l with H₂O and apply to column; spin for 2 minutes 15 at 3000 rpm.

Sample application: in sequencing tubes, 4 μ l of Centri Sep eluate + 20 μ l of TSR (template suppression reagent); denature for 2 minutes at 90°C.

Southern Blot:

20

Digest DNA probe with suitable restriction enzymes, separate by gel electrophoresis and extract from the gel. Digest genomic DNA overnight with suitable restriction enzymes and separate by gel electrophoresis (1% agarose gel)

Pretreatment of the gel: Remove loading wells from the agarose gel. Depurinate the agarose gel for 15 minutes in 0.25 M HCl, then wash 2x in distilled water; denature the agarose gel for 30 minutes in 0.5 M NaOH; transfer using the Vacuum Blotter Model 785 (*BioRad*): into the center of the vinyl sheet, cut a window (window seal), trim the 5 edges of the nylon membrane and the filter paper in each case 0.5 cm smaller than the gel, moisten the edge of the nylon membrane with distilled water in each case 0.5 cm wider than the window in the vinyl sheet, then moisten nylon membrane and filter paper with transfer solution

Construction of the apparatus (bottom to top):

- 10 Base unit, vacuum platform, porous vacuum slab, filter paper, nylon membrane, vinyl window, agarose gel, final frame, lid

Preheat BioRad vacuum pump for 10 minutes, apply vacuum (5 inches Hg)

Press gel gently along the edge

Place transfer solution (approx. 1 l 10x SSC) into upper reservoir; transfor time:

- 15 90 minutes; switch off vacuum, remove nylon membrane and rinse for 5 minutes in 2x SSC, then leave to dry in the air between filter paper. DNA immobilization: place nylon membrane on UV-permeable cling-film and apply probe at the edge as positive control; place into the UV stratalinker and start crosslinking (1200000 J → 0); membrane may be stored in cling-film or between Whatman filter paper at room temperature or 4°C.

- 20 *Gene Images Random Prime Labelling Module (Amersham)*:

Labeling of the DNA probe: Denature DNA probe for 5 minutes at 96°C (heat shock), then place on ice. 10 µl reaction mix (nucleotide mix (5x), fluorescein-11-dUTP, dATP, dCTP, dGTP and dTTP in Tris-HCl, pH 7.8, 2-mercaptoethanol and MgCl₂); 5 µl of primer (Random Nonamers); 1 µl of enzyme solution (Klenow fragment, 5 units/ml); 22

- 25 µl of denatured DNA probe; 12 µl of H₂O. Incubate for 2 hours at 37°C and add 2 µl of 0.5 M EDTA (=20 mM), store aliquots at -20°C. Verification of the labeling efficiency: dilute 5x nucleotide mix with TE buffer 1/5, 1/10, 1/25, 1/50, 1/100, 1/250 and 1/500; to a nylon membrane strip, apply 5 µl of DNA probe together with 5 µl of 1/5 dilution, allow to absorb briefly and wash for 15 minutes at 60°C in prewarmed 2x SSC; apply

- 30 to a reference membrane strip the remaining solutions without the 1/5 dilution and observe both membrane strips under UV light → determination of the sample intensity.

Hybridization: Prehybridize nylon membrane (blot) with warmed hybridization buffer (0.3 ml/cm^2) for 2 hours at 60°C in a rotating oven; drain buffer and retain 10 ml thereof; denature DNA probe ($20 \mu\text{l}$); (5 minutes at 96°C , then cool on ice); place probe with the 10 ml of buffer onto blot and hybridize overnight at 60°C in the rotating oven.

5

Wash steps:

15 minutes on platform shaker in warmed 1x SSC, 0.1% (w/v) SDS; 15 minutes on a platform shaker in warmed 0.5x SSC, 0.1% (w/v) SDS

10 Gene Images CDP-Star Detection Module (Amersham):

Stop and antibody reaction: On a shaker, incubate the blot at room temperature for 1 hour in a 1/10 dilution of stop reagent in buffer A; dilute antibody solution (alkaline phosphatase coupled to antifluorescein, 5000x) with 0.5% (w/v) BSA/buffer A, together 15 with the blot seal into foil and incubate for 1 hour at room temperature on a shaker; remove unbound antibody solution by washing three times for 10 minutes in 0.3% Tween 10 in buffer A

Signal generation and detection: Drain wash buffer, place blot on cling-film; apply 5 ml of detection reagent, allow to react for 2-5 minutes and again drain (the alkaline

20 phosphatase causes the generation of light); wrap in cling-film and, in a dark room in red light, apply the film (Hyperfilm™ MP, Amersham), expose for 0.5-2 hours in a film cassette (BioMax, Kodak), develop and scan; the blot can be stored in cling-film at 4°C .

25 Example 1: Construction of the specific deletion cassettes

All deletions were carried out by standard methods (Fink, G. R. et al., 1991; Wach, A. et al., 1994; Guldener, U. et al., 1996; Goldstein, A. L. et al., 1999).

Fragments of about 500 bp each, each of which represents the region at the beginning 30 and the end of the gene, was amplified by PCR with the primers TRK1-FL-BamHI-Fo, TRK1-FL-PstI-Re, TRK1-FL-PstI-Fo and TRK1-FL-Xhol-Re for TRK1 or TRK2-DEL-5-

Fo-B, TRK2-DEL-5-Re, TRK2-DEL-3-Fo and TRK2-DEL-3-Re for TRK2 and TOK1-DEL-5-Fo, TOK1-DEL-5-Re, TOK1-DEL-3-Fo and TOK1-DEL-3-Re for TOK1 (see Chapter 2.3). The amplified termini later allow correct integration into the yeast genome. The yeast strain *w303 a/a* or *w303 a/a Δ trk1* acted as DNA template.

5

Example 2: Construction of the single, double and triple mutants

Example 2 a: Single knock-out

The constructed deletion cassettes for TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 were each transformed into the diploid yeast strain YM 96 (MAT α /MAT α). Integration of the deletion cassettes to the genome was verified by growing the *trk1* mutants (YM123/124) on (-)URA/Glc and the *trk2-* (YM158-161) and *tok1* mutants (YM154-157) on YPD/geneticin, since the URA3 marker in the TRK1 deletion cassette allows growth on (-)URA medium and the KAN marker in the TRK2 or TRK1 deletion cassette allows growth on geneticin (Fink, G. R. et al., 1991). The positive colonies were transferred to a sporulation plate by replica plating, whereupon MAT α /MAT α diploid cells sporulate after 18-24 hours without vegetative growth. After they were treated with Zymolase and regrown on YPD, tetrads of some colonies were then divided into 4 individual spores with the aid of a dissecting microscope.

The mating type of the spore colonies was determined by pairing with matching tester strains (Fink, G. R. et al., 1991). Selection for the presence of the deletion cassette was done by replica-plating on -URA medium (for *trk1*) and on geneticin-containing medium for *trk2* and *tok1*. After obtaining the genomic DNA of the transformants by yeast DNA preparation, the result was verified by diagnostic PCR and Southern blot.

25

Example 2 b: Double knock-out

The TOK1 deletion cassette was transformed into the haploid $\Delta trk1$ yeast strains YM123 and Y124 and selected for integration of the TOK1 deletion cassette by growth on YPD/geneticin. The result was verified by diagnostic PCR and Southern blot.

Glycerol cultures were made with the (+)URA3,(+)KAN ($\Delta trk1 \Delta tok1$) strains (YM140, YM141, YM143 and YM144).

Single colonies were streaked out as patches, replica-plated on 5-FOA, and colonies were selected which had eliminated the URA3 marker and a *hisG* repeat from the TRK1 deletion cassette (Fink, G. R. et al., 1991). Accordingly, no colonies which lacked the URA3 gene (in TRK1) for uracil synthesis grew on (-)URA/Glc, while all 5 colonies survived on YPD/gen owing to the resistance gene in the TOK1 deletion cassette. To remove the Kan marker from the genome, the (-)URA3 mutants were transformed with plasmid pSH47, on which the genes for Cre recombinase and uracil synthesis (URA3) are located. Positive transformants grew on (-)URA/Glc and it was then possible to induce Cre recombinase by incubation in (-)URA/Gal liquid medium. In 10 this process, the Kan marker together with one *loxP* repeat is eliminated, and one *loxP* remains.

After the overnight culture was brought to $OD_{600} = 5$, the dilutions 1:10 000 and 1:50 000 were plated onto (-)URA/Gal. Patches of single colonies, replica-plated on YPD/gen, showed no growth (this means that the Kan marker had been eliminated 15 successfully). To remove plasmid pSH47, the cells were subsequently reselected twice 5-FOA. Glycerol cultures were made with the (-)URA(-)KAN ($\Delta trk1 \Delta tok1$) strains (YM162, YM163 and YM164).

Example 2 c: Triple knock-out

20

Overnight cultures in YPD were set up with single $\Delta trk1 \Delta tok1$ single colonies (YM162 and YM164), and, next day, transformed with the *Bs*WI/*Spel*-digested TRK2 deletion cassette and plated onto YPD/KCl/geneticin. After a yeast DNA preparation, the triple knock-out was verified by diagnostic PCR and Southern blot.

25

Table 1

Top row, left to right:	Bottom row, left to right:
1. marker	1. marker
2. YM 97 with TRK1 DiaFo/Re1	2. YM 182 with TRK1 DiaFo/Re1
3. YM 97 with TRK2 DiaFo/Re1	3. YM 182 with TRK2 DiaFo/Re1
4. YM 97 with TOK1 DiaFo/Re1	4. YM 182 with TOK1 DiaFo/Re1

5. YM 97 with TRK1 DiaFo/URARe	5. YM 182 with TRK1 DiaFo/URARe
6. YM 97 with TRK2 DiaFo/KANRe	6. YM 182 with TRK2 DiaFo/KANRe
7. YM 97 with TOK1 DiaFo/KANRe	7. YM 182 with TOK1 DiaFo/KANRe
8. free	8. free
9. YM 97 with TRK1 DiaFo/Re2	9. YM 182 with TRK1 DiaFo/Re2
10. YM 97 with TRK2 DiaFo/Re2	10. YM 182 with TRK2 DiaFo/Re2
11. YM 97 with TOK1 DiaFo/Re2	11. YM 182 with TOK1 DiaFo/Re2

Example 3: Subcloning and transformation of the human potassium channels into the double and triple mutants

5 The human genes HERG, HCN2, Kv1.5 and, as positive controls, TRK1 and IRK1 (guinea pig) were excised from the plasmids harboring them (HERG between *Bam*HI in pcDNA; HCN2 between *Ncol*/*Xhol* in pTLN; Kv1.5 between *Nhel*/*Eco*RI in pcDNA3.1(-); IRK1 between *Bam*HI/*Eco*RI in pSGEM) by cleavage with restriction enzymes, separated by gel electrophoresis and extracted from the gel. The individual
 10 human potassium channels were ligated into the yeast vector p423-GPD3 (Mumberg, D. et al., 1995; Ronicke, V. et al., 1997) and transformed into *E. coli*. Control digestion of the plasmid preparations and sequencing permitted the identification of the clones which had integrated the human gene. The plasmids were subsequently transformed into the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ double knock-out (YM 168) and into the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ triple
 15 knock-out (YM 182) and plated onto (-)HIS/80 mM KCl.

Example 4: Characterization of the knock-out strains

Example 4 a: Growth of the double and triple mutants on culture plates at various K⁺ concentrations and pH values

To compare the different potassium requirements of the various knockouts, yeast strains YM 182, YM 168 and YM 97 (WT) were incubated on DPM plates with different K⁺ concentrations and different pH values. To this end, patches of the glycerol cultures

were first streaked onto 100 mM KCl/pH 6.5. After 2 days' growth, 50 mM, 30 mM and 5 mM KCl were replica-plated.

This experiment showed that both strain YM168 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$) and strain YM182 ($\Delta trk1 5 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) are viable on 50 mM and 30 mM KCl. Additionally, it emerged that strain YM182 grew better in the presence of 30 mM KCl than strain YM168. None of the two strains was viable in the presence of 5 mM KCl, in contrast to the wild-type strain YM97.

To test for pH dependency, the three strains were additionally replica-plated on
10 100 mM and 5 mM KCl/pH 5.0 and on 100 mM and 5 mM KCl/pH 4.0. This experiment demonstrated that neither YM168 nor YM182 are viable at pH 4.0 in the presence of 100 mM KCl and 5 mM KCl. At pH 5.0 and 100 mM KCl, the growth deficiency of YM168 is more pronounced than in the case of strain YM182. Expression of TRK1 of vector pRS416GAL1 fully compensates for the growth deficiency of strains YM168
15 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$) and YM182 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$).

Example 4 b: Growth of double and triple mutants in liquid medium at various K⁺ concentrations

20 To characterize strains YM168 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$) and YM182 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$), on which all further experiments are based, the growth behavior of the yeast strains in liquid culture was studied. First, overnight cultures were set up in DPM/80 mM KCl, and, next morning, the cultures were brought to an OD = 0.05 with DPM/5 mM KCl and with DPM/15 mM KCl. The optical density at 600 nm was determined after defined intervals
25 with the aid of a photometer.

These studies demonstrate that the growth deficiency of strain YM182 is less pronounced at 5 mM KCl and at 15 mM KCl than in the case of strain YM168.

30 Example 5: Characterization of the human potassium channels in double and triple knock-outs

Example 5 a: Complementation capacity for K⁺ deficiency on culture plates

Each of the strains YM168 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$) and YM182 ($\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$) was transformed with the human potassium channels Kv1.5 ((Fedida, D. et al., 1998);YM190 and YM195) and HERG1 ((Fedida, D. et al., 1998) ;YM191 and YM196) in p423-GPD3, respectively, as yeast expression vector. gplRK1 ((Tang, W. et al., 1995);YM193 and YM198) acted as positive control in p423-GPD3 as yeast expression vector (Mumberg, D. et al., 1995; Ronicke, V. et al., 1997). The blank vector p423-GPD3 (YM189 and YM194) acted as negative control. The transformed yeast strains were plated onto (-)HIS/80 mM KCl medium. After this, patches of single colonies were replica-plated onto DPM/5 mM KCl (pH 6.5) to check the capacity of complementing the potassium deficiency.

These experiments demonstrated that the positive control gplRK1 (YM193 and YM198) in p423-GPD3 fully complemented growth deficiency of double and triple knock-outs. The blank vector p423-GPD3 (YM189 and YM194) as negative control is not capable of complementing the growth deficiency. While the human potassium channel Kv1.5 complements the growth deficiency of triple knock-out, it does so significantly less effectively than the positive control gplRK1. It was also observed that the human potassium channel Kv 1.5 does not complement the double knock-out $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$. Under the given experimental conditions, the HERG1 channel does not complement the growth deficiency of double and triple knock-outs.

Example 5 b: Growth on culture plates in the presence of activators

To demonstrate the effect of activators on the various potassium channels, the strains stated above were incubated in media containing the following specific activators. Kv1.5: Rb⁺ extends the hyperpolarization phase. This means that the inwardly directed K⁺ flux is more prolonged and increases the possibility of complementing the growth deficiency.

HERG: Cs⁺ extends the hyperpolarization phase. This means that the inwardly directed K⁺ flux is more prolonged and increases the possibility of complementing the growth deficiency. This channel is inhibited by Cs⁺.

IRK1: Cs⁺ blocks this channel.

5 The experiments with p423-GPD3-Kv1.5 demonstrated that the human Kv1.5 channel is capable of fully complementing the growth deficiency of the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ mutant in the presence of 2 mM RbCl (Fig. 3). Complementation of the growth deficiency of the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ -mutant is markedly less effective (Fig. 3). This tallies with the results shown in Example 6 a.

10

The experiments with p423-GPD3-HERG demonstrated that the human HERG1 channel is capable of fully complementing the growth deficiency of the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 tok1$ mutant in the presence of 2 mM CsCl (Fig. 4). Complementation of the growth deficiency of the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2$ mutant is markedly less effective (Fig. 4). This tallies with 15 the results shown in Example 6 a.

Example 5 c: Complementation by the Kv1.5 channel in the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ mutant in the presence of RbCl in liquid medium

20 The yeast strains YM 194 and YM 195 were tested in DPM/-HIS/5 mM KCl with 1 mM RbCl for the different growth behavior in liquid medium. To this end, 10 ml of overnight culture were set up in DPM/-HIS/80 mM KCl and, next morning, brought to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.05 with the relevant media (final volume: 20 ml). The optical density at 600 nm was determined at defined intervals with the aid of a photometer.

25 These experiments demonstrate unambiguously that the expression of Kv1.5 of vector p423-GPD3 in a yeast strain which is deleted for TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 is capable of complementing the growth deficiency caused thereby.

In further experiments, it was demonstrated that the complementation of the growth 30 deficiency by Kv1.5 and also by gpIRK1 is inhibited in the presence of 2 mM CsCl.

Example 5 d: Complementation by the HERG1 channel in the $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ mutant in the presence of CsCl in liquid medium

The yeast strains YM 194 and YM 196 were tested in DPM/-HIS/5 mM KCl with 1 mM CsCl for their different growth behavior in liquid medium. To this end, 10 ml of overnight culture were set up in DPM/-HIS/80 mM KCl and, next morning, brought to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.05 with the relevant media (final volume: 20 ml). The optical density at 600 nm was determined at defined intervals with the aid of a photometer.

These experiments demonstrate unambiguously that the expression of HERG1 of vector p423-GPD3 in a yeast strain which is deleted for TRK1, TRK2 and TOK1 is capable of complementing the growth deficiency caused thereby.

Example 6:

15 All growth assays in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1 \Delta trk2 \Delta tok1$ were carried out in growth medium DPM (defined potassium medium) at the pH and the potassium concentration stated in each case.

The substances employed as inhibitors of the human HERG1 K⁺ channel were
 20 terfenadine (α -(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(α -hydroxy- α -phenylbenzyl)-1-piperidinebutanol; HMR), pimozide (1-(4,4-bis(P-fluorophenyl)butyl)-4-(2-oxo-1-benzimidazolinyl)-piperidine; Sigma, Cat. No. P100), ziprasidone (5-(2-[4-(1,2-benzisothiazol-3-yl)piperazino]-ethyl)-6-chloro-1,3-dihydro-2H-indol-2-one; HMR), loratadine (ethyl 4-(8-chloro-5,6-dihydro-11H-benzo[5,6]cyclohepta[1,2-b]pyridin-11-ylidene)-1-
 25 piperidinecarboxylate; HMR) and sertindole (1-(2-[4-[5-chloro-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-piperidinyl]ethyl)-2-imidazolidinone; HMR) (Richelson, E. 1996; Richelson, E. 1999; Delpon, E. et al., 1999; Kobayashi, T. et al., 2000; Drici, M. D. et al., 2000). Diphenhydramine (Sigma, Cat. No. D3630) and fexofenadine (4-[hydroxy-4-[4-(hydroxydiphenylmethyl)-1-piperidinyl]butyl]- α,α -dimethyl benzeneacetic acid
 30 hydrochloride; HMR) (Taglialatela, M. et al., 1999; DuBuske, L. M. 1999), substances which should not have inhibitory effect on potassium channels, were also employed.

All substances, dissolved in DMSO, were employed in a final concentration of 30 µM. As a control, cells were measured with the same final concentration of 0.5% DMSO without substance, without DMSO addition or without substance.

5 As described in Figures 1 and 2, the human HERG1 channel is capable of complementing the growth deficiency of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ on medium which only contains 5 mM KCl. It was possible to demonstrate (Fig. 7, Fig. 8) that, in the presence of the substances terfenadine, pimozide, ziprasidone, sertindole and loratadine, the human HERG1 channel can no longer complement the growth
10 deficiency of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ on medium which only contains 5 mM KCl.

Example 7:

15 Incubation with the substances terfenadine, pimozide, diphenhydramine, ziprasidone, loratidine, fexofenadine and sertindole of the wild-type strain which expresses all three endogenous potassium channel proteins of yeast demonstrated that terfenadine, loratidine and sertindole are specific inhibitors of the human HERG1 channel (Figure 9).

20

According to the present results, pimozide and ziprasidone must be considered as rather unspecific inhibitors. This means that these substances possibly inhibit not only the human HERG1 channel, but also the endogenous potassium channels of the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. However, the present results could not exclude that the

25 inhibitory effect found for these substances can possibly also be attributed to an inhibition of other proteins which are essential for the growth of yeast cells. To study this possibility, the action of these substances was also tested in a growth medium containing 80 mM KCl.

30 These studies demonstrated (Figure 10) that pimozide inhibits the activity of the essential endogenous potassium channels TRK1 and TRK2 in an unspecific fashion.

The absence of an inhibitory effect of higher potassium concentrations allows the conclusion that pimozide has no generally toxic effect on yeast cells. In contrast, it was demonstrated that ziprasidone inhibits the growth of the yeast cells even at higher potassium concentrations and therefore has a toxic effect on *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The identification of the target protein in the yeast which might be responsible for this effect is as yet outstanding.

In conclusion, these experiments demonstrate that the above-described system makes it possible in practice to identify, in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, substances which specifically inhibit the human potassium channels.

10

The results can be seen from Figure 10.

Example 8:

15 The human potassium channels HERG1 and Kv1.5 do not complement the growth deficiency of the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ (Figure 11 and Figure 12).

Results: Figures 11 and 12.

Figures 11 and 12 demonstrate that the human potassium channels HERG1 and Kv1.5
20 do not complement the growth deficiency of the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ (in each case 4th segment in Figures 11 and 12). The comparison with the negative control, i.e. the blank vector $\emptyset p423GPD$ in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ (in each case 1st segment of Figures 11 and 12), shows no improved growth. The negative control p423GPD in the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ is not shown, but does not differ from the negative
25 control p423GPD in the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$. In contrast, the human potassium channels HERG1 and Kv1.5 complement the growth deficiency of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$ (in each case 3rd segment of Figures 11 and 12).

Example 9:

30

The human potassium channel ROMK2 ((Shuck, M. E. et al., 1994; Bock, J. H. et al., 1997); Sequence SEQ ID NO. ~~X~~³ hROMK2) was subcloned into the yeast vector p423GPD and transformed into the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$. The studies demonstrated that this human potassium channel too is capable of complementing the growth deficiency of the triple mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2\Delta tok1$.

The capability of this human potassium channel to complement the growth deficiency of the double mutant $\Delta trk1\Delta trk2$ has not been studied as yet. No substances are known as yet which specifically inhibit the ROMK2 channel.

10

The results can be seen from Figure 13.

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Table 1: SEQ ID. NO. 1

Nucleotide sequence of TRK1

ATGCATTTAGAAGAACGATGAGTAGAGTGCCCACATTGGCATCTCTGAAATACGATATAAAAAATCTTCGGCC
 ATAAATTTCGTGATTTTATTGCTCTATGTTGACTATTGCTCCAGTTAAAAATATCTTCCCCAGTTTAT
 5 CGCGGTTCACTACTTCTACACGGATATCCCTGACATTAATAACTCAATCCTGCTATATCCCATTAGAACATCCAGA
 TACATTGATACATTGTTAGCAGCGGGCGAGTTACACAAGGTGGCTTAAATACTGTGGATATCAACAATCTAA
 GCTTATACCAACAAATTGTTCTGTATATCGTATGCTGATATCAACACCAATTGCAAGTCATAGTTGCTGGCATT
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 CAGTTTACTACATTCTAAGTTGGTACATAGCTATGCTGATCAGAGGCAAGAACAGAGGCTACCCACTC
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 50 GGCTAGAACCAATACAGAACCCAATGACGGAACATTCAAGAGAACATTCACTGATGAAACATCGTTGGGA
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Table 2: SEQ ID. NO. 2

Nucleotide sequence of TRK2

ATGCCAACAGCTAACAGGGACGTCATCCAGGGCTCGTGGCACTGCCCTCCAGTTACGGTGGTGCACAAGAAAT
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 30 GAGGAGCAATCGTGGGACTATACGATAGTGGACAAGATGACGAAAATATCACCCACGAAGACGATATAAGGAAA
 CAGACCATGATGGCGAACCGAACGAGACACTGTATCTACAAAGTCCAAGGCCAAGAACAGTCCCCAAAATC
 GTTTGGTGGCTCATGGAGGAGCAACTCTTTGATTATGGTACCTATTCTGGATTATTATAATATGC
 ATATGCGAGGGCAGAAAATCGAAGACGTTAATAAACCTGATTCAATGCTTTGCTATTGTTGAAGTTGTTA
 GCGCTTATGGTACAGTGGTTGTCAATTGGGTTACCCAAACACCATCACTATCTGCCAGTTCACCGTATT
 35 ATCGAAGCTAGTCATAATTGCCATGCTAATAAGAGGAAGAAATAGAGGTTACCATACACTTGGATCGGCCATC
 ATGCTGCCAAGTGACAAACTGGAACAAATTGATGCTTACAAGATATGAAAGCTAAGGGTAAGTTGTTAGCCAAAG
 TTGGTGAGGATCCAATGACTACTTACGTCAAAAAGAGATCCCACAAACTGAAAAAAATAGCAACAAAGTTGGGG
 GAAGCATTA

40 Table 3: SEQ ID NO. 3

Nucleotide sequence of TOK1

ATGACAAGGTTCATGAACAGCTTTGCCAACAAACGCTGGATATGGCAATATGGCACAGTGGAGCAAGAGAGCT
 CAGCTCAGGCTGTGATTCTCATTCAAACACACCGAACGCAAGCTAAGGGTCTTGCAGAGGAACCTAAAGGA
 TGCATTGGGTTCCGGGACGAAAGAGTTAGTATTATTAATGCAAGAGCCTCTCAACACTGTTCTTGGTT
 45 GTGGTTTCTATGCTATTCCCTGTGATTACTGCCCTGCTGGGCCCCGTAGCTAACACTATCTGATAGCCTGTGAG
 TTGAAAATGGAGATCCTAAAGAACAACTCCGCTGTGACAATCCACGAAGCAATGACACCGATGTTGATGAA
 TCAAGTAAAGACAGTTTGATCCTCTGGTATTGGCTTAATATCATCTCTGGTACTGGGTTTACGTCA
 AATATTATACTAATGCTACATTTCAGTAAGAAGTTGACGTATCTAAATCTCAGTTAATAATATAACAGGATGGA
 CAATAGCTGGAGGGATGCTTGGGACGTGATTGATGCTCTGGTATGCAATGACATGCCAGCATCACAGTAAGAC
 50 TATCGGATTTGGTTGCCTGTATCAGTTCTGGTCTATATTGGTATGCACCATATTAAACAATACATTATT
 GGATATAAATTAGGAAAATATCCTCCAACGTTAACCTTTGCCAATGAAAGAAGTATCATGGCATAACTGTAC
 TATTGTCTTATGGTTGATTTGGGTGCGGGTATGTTAGCGTTATTGACATCACTTACGGAAATGCATTATA
 TTTCTGCACGGTATCATTAAACCGTGGACTAGGTGACATCCTGCCAACGTCGGTGGGCCAAATCATGGTT

TTAATCTTTCGCTATCTGGTGTCTGATGGGTTAATAGTGTATGACAAGATCCATCATTCAAAAGTCCT
 CTGGCCAATTTCCTTTCCACAGAGTGAAAAGGCAGGTCAAATCGTGGAAACATTATGGATAGTAGTAA
 AAATTATCTGAAAGGAAGCGTTGACTTAATGAAGTGATCCGACAAACGGCCTCAAGGAAGCAGCATTGGTT
 TCTTGTCGGTGAATTGCAATTTCATGGCTTTGGTATTGGGAGCTCTGTATTCAAATTGCAAGAAAATT
 5 GGTGCGTACTTCATTTACTTTCTGTCTTAAACCATTGGATAACGGAGACTATGCTCCAAGGAC
 TGTTGCAAGGCCGTGCTTTTGATTGGCGTGGGAGCGTGCCTTAATGGGGCTATCCTATCTACAGTC
 GGTGATCTGTTGGACATTCCACTTCTGTGATTAAGATCGGTGAATCTCAATAATAAGTCAAGTCCA
 TCGTTTTAATGGCGTCAAAGAGCACTTCCTTATGGTGAACACTGGAGAAATTTCGAAGAATCTGACACAGC
 TGATGGTATCTGGAAGAAAATACAACGAGCTCACAATCCAGTCAAATTCTGAATTCAACGATAATAATTGAGAA
 10 GAGAATGATTCTGGAGTGACATCCCCTCTGCAAGCCTGCAAGAACATCTTCTTCAATTATCAAAGCATCTAGCC
 CAGAGGAATACTCCCTCTAGAATATGTTCTCTGTGAATATGCACTACAGGAACGGGACCTGTAATTAAAG
 GAACTTGCAAGAGCTACTTAAAGCCGTAAAAAAACTACATGGATATGCTGGCGATAAGATTACACACTTAGT
 TTTTCCGACTGGTGGTACATTCAAAACTACATTGAGGAACATTACAGATATTGAGGAGTACACACGGGACCCG
 AATTGGATATCACCTGATAACGCCCTCAAGTCCGTTAAATGAACCTCATTTGCTTTATGATGCTTTCAA
 15 GAACATAGAAGAATTAGTGGTAATCTAGTAGAACAGAAGAGCTTATAAAGTTATAAGCAAAAGAAAATTGGT
 GGTGAGCATAGAAAGACACTTGA

Table 4: SEQ ID NO. 4

Nucleotide sequence of HERG1

20 ATGCCGGTGGGAGGGGCCACGTCGCCCGCAGAACACCTTCTGGACACCACATCCGCAAGTTGAGGGCCAGA
 GCCGTAAGTTCATCATGCCAACGCTCGGGTGGAGAACCTGCGCCGTACATCTACTGCAACGACGGCTTCTGCGAGCT
 GTGCGGCTACTCGCGGGCCGAGGTGATGCAAGCGACCTGCGACTTCCCTGACCGGCGCAGCAGCGC
 CGCGCTGCCCGCAGATCGCGAGGCACTGCTGGCGCCGAGGAGCGCAAAGTGGAAATGCCCTCTACCGGAAAG
 ATGGGAGCTGCTTCCATGTCGGTGGATGTGGTGGCCGTGAAGAACGAGGATGGGGCTGTACATGTTCATCCT
 25 CAATTTCGAGGTGGTGAAGAACATGGTGGGGTCCCCGGCTCATGACACCAACCACGGGGCCCCCCCAC
 AGCTGGCTGGCCCCCAGGCCGCCAACACCTTCCGCTGAAGCTGCCCGCCTGCTGGCGTACGGCCGGAGT
 CGTCGGTGGCTGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCGGGCG
 GGCACCCAGCAGCGAGTCGCTGGCCCTGGACGAAGTGACAGCCATGGACAACCACGTGGCAGGGCTGGCG
 GAGGAGCGGCGTGGCTGGTGGGTCCCAGCTCTCCGCCCCGAGCGCGCCGGCCAGCTCCATGCCCGGGCG
 30 ACAGCCTCAACCCGACGCCCTGGCTCCAGCTGCAAGCCTGGCCGGACCGCGCTCCCGAGAACGCTGCCAGCGT
 GCGCCGCCCTCGTCGGCCGACGACATCGAGGCCATGCGCGCCGGGTGCTGCCCGGCCACCGCGCCACGCCAGC
 ACCGGGGCCATGCACCCACTGCGCAGCGGCTTGCTCAACTCCACCTCGGACTCCGACCTCGTGCCTACCGCACCA
 TTAGCAAGATTCCCCAAATCACCTCAACTTGTGGACCTCAAGGGCAGCCCTTCTGGCTCGCCACCAAGTGA
 CCCTGAGATCATAGCACCTAACAGATAAAGGAGCGAACCCACAATGTCACTGAGAACGGTACCCAGGTCTGCCCTG
 35 GGCGCCGACGTGCTGCCCTGAGTACAAGCTGCAAGGACCGCGCATCCACCGCTGGACCATCTGCATTACAGCCCCT
 TCAAGGGCGTGTGGGACTGGCTCATCTGCTGCTGGTACATCACGGCTGCTTACACCCCTACTCGGCTGCC
 CCTGCTGAAGGAGACCGAAGAACAGGCCGCCCTGCTACCGAGTGTGGCTACGCGCTGCCAGCCGCTGGCTGGTGGAC
 CTCATCGTGGACATCATGTTCATGTGGACATCCCTCATCAACTTCCGACCCACTACGTCAATGCCAACAGGAGG
 TGTCAGCCACCCGGCGATGCCGCTCAACTACTTCAAGGGCTGGTCTCATGACATGGTGGCCGCATCCC
 40 CTTCGACCTGCTCATCTCGGCTCTGGCTCTGAGGGAGCTGATCGGGCTGCTGAAGACTGCGGGCTGCTGCGGCTG
 GTGCGCGTGGCGCGGAAGCTGGATCGCTACTCAGAGTACGGCGCGCCGTGCTGTTCTGCTCATGTCACCTTTG
 CGCTCATCGCGACTGGCTAGCCTGCATCTGGTACGCCATCGCAACATGGAGCAGCCACACATGGACTCACGCAT
 CGGCTGGCTGCACACCTGGCGACCAGATAGGAAACCCCTACAACAGCAGCGGCCCTGGCGCCCTCATCAAG
 GACAAGTATGTGACGGCGCTACTTCACCTTCAGCAGCCTCACCAAGTGTGGCTCGGCAACGTCTCCCAACA
 45 CCAACTCAGAGAAGATCTCTCCATCTGCGTACATGCTCATTGGCTCCCTCATGTATGCTAGCATCTCGCAACGT
 GTCGGCCATCATCCAGCGGCTGACTCGGGCACAGCCGCTACCCACACAGATGCTGCCGGTGCAGGGAGTTCATC
 CGCTTCCACCAAGATCCCCAATCCCTGCCAGCGCCTCGAGGAGTACTTCAGCAGCCCTGGCTACACCAACG
 GCATCGACATGAACCGGGCTGCAAGGGCTCCCTGAGTGCCTGCAGGCTGACATCTGCTGCCACCTGAACCGCTC
 ACTGCTGCAGCACTGCAAACCCCTCCGAGGGGCCACCAAGGGCTGCCATGAAGTCAAGACC
 50 ACACATGCACCGCCAGGGACACACTGGTGCATGCTGGGACCTGCTCACCGCCCTGTACTTCATCTCCGGGCT
 CCATCGAGATCCTGCGGGCGACGTCGTCGTCGGCATCCCTGGGAAGAACATGACATCTTGGGAGCCTCTGAACCT
 GTATGCAAGGCCTGGCAAGTCGAACGGGATGTGCGGGCCCTCACCTACTGTCACCTACACAAGATCCATCGGGAC
 GACCTGCTGGAGGTGCTGGACATGTACCTGAGTCTCCGACCAACTCTGGTCCAGCCTGGAGATCACCTCAACC
 TGGCAGATACCAACATGATCCGGCTCCCCGGCAGTACGGAGTTAGAGGGTGGCTCAGTCGGCAACGCAAGCG
 55 CAAGTTGCTCCCGCAGGCGACGGACAAGGACACGGAGCAGGCCAGGGAGGTGTCGGCCTGGGCCGGCG

GCGGGGGCAGGGCCGAGTAGCCGGGCCGGGGCCGTGGGGGAGAGCCCGTCCAGTGGCCCCCTCCAGGC
 CTGAGAGCAGTGAGGATGAGGCCAGGCCAGCTCCAGCCCCCTCCGCTGGCCTTCAGCAGCCCCAGGCC
 CCCCAGAGGCCGCCGGTGGGAGCCCTGATGGAGGACTGCGAGAAGAGCAGCGACACTTGCAACCCCTGTCA
 GGCGCTTCTCAGGAGTGTCAAACATTTCAGCTCTGGGGGACAGTCGGGGCCAGTACCAGGAGCTCCCTC
 5 GATGCCCGCCCCCACCCAGCCTCTAACATCCCCCTCTCCAGCCGGTGGAGACCCGGCTGAGTCAGACATGGCCACTGTCTG
 GAGCAGGCTGGATGCCCTCAGCGCCAGCTAACAGGCTGGAGACCCGGCTGAGTCAGACATGGCCACTGTCTG
 CAGCTGCTACAGAGGCAGATGACGCTGGTCCCAGCCCTACAGTGTGACCAACCCGGGCTGGCCCCACT
 CCACATCCCCGCTGGTCCCAGCCCTCCCCACCTTGACTCGCTTCTCAGGTTCCAGTTCA
 10 GGCAGTGTGAGGAGCTGCCCGGGGGCCAGAGCTCCCCAAGAAGGCCACACGACGCCCTCCCTACCGGGC
 10 CAGCTGGGGCCCTCACCTCCAGCCCTGCACAGACACGGCTGGACCCGGCAGTTA

Table 5: SEQ ID NO. 5

15 Nucleotide sequence of Kv1-5

ATGGAGATGCCCTGGTGCCTGGAGAACGGCGGTGCCATGACCGTCAGAGGAGGCGATGAGGCCGGGCAGGCT
 CGGCCAGGCCACAGGGGAGAGCTCCAGTGTCAGGGCTGGCTCAGCGATGGCCAAGGAGCCGGCGCC
 AAAGGGCGCGCAGAGAGACCGGACTCGGGAGTGCAGGCCCTTGCGCTCCGCTGCCGACCCGGAGTGCAGGCC
 20 TTGCCTCCGCTGCCAGAGGAGTGCACGGCCCTCGACGGCCCTCCGAGGACGAGGAGGAAGAAGCGATCCCG
 GCCCTGGCACGGTGGAGGACCAAGGCTCTGGCACGGCGTCCCTGACCCAGCGCTCCACATCAACATCTCCGG
 GCTGCCTTGAGACGCACTGGCACCTGGCGAGTCCCCAACACACTCCTGGGGACCCGCAAGCGCCTG
 CCGTACTTCGACCCCCCTGAGGAACGAGTACTTCTCGACCGCAACCGGCCAGCTCGACGGTATCCTCTACTACT
 ACCAGTCCGGGGCCGCTCGAGGGGTCAACGTCTCCCTGGACGTGTCAGGACGAGATACTACGCTTCTACCAAGCT
 25 GGGGGACGAGGCCATGGAGCGCTCCGAGGATGAGGGCTTCATTAAAGAACAGGAGAACGCCCTGCCCGAAC
 GAGTTCCAGCGCCAGGTGTGGTTATCTCGAGTATCCGGAGAGCTCTGGGTCCCGCGGGCATCGCCATCGTCT
 CGGTCTGGTTATCCATCTCCATCATCACCTCTGCTTGGAGACCCCTGCTGAGTTAGGGATGAACGTGAGCT
 GCTCCGCCACCCCTCCGGCCCCACAGCCTCCCGCCCGCCCTGGGGCAACGGCAGCGGGGTATGGCCCCC
 GCCTCTGGCCCTACGGTGGCACCGCTCTGCCAGGACCCCTGGCCGACCCCTCTCATCGTGGAGAACACGTGCG
 30 TGATCTGGTTCACCTCGAGCTGCTCGCTTCTCGCTGCCCTGCCAGCAAGGCAGGGTCTCCCGAACATCAT
 GAACATCATCGATGTGGTGGCCATCTTCCCCTACTTCATCACCTGGCACCGAACCTGGCAGAGCAGCCAGGG
 GGCAGGAGGAGGCCAGAATGGCAGCAGGCCATGTCCCTGGCATCTCCGAGTCATCCGCTGGTCCGGGTGT
 TCCGCATCTCAAGCTCTCCGCCACTCCAAGGGCTGCAGATCCTGGCAAGACCTTGCAGGCCCTCCATGAGGGA
 GCTGGGGCTGCTCATCTTCTTCTCATCGGGGTATCCTCTCCAGTGGCTACTTCGAGAGGCTGAC
 35 AACCAAGGAACCCATTCTCTAGCATCCCTGACGCCCTCTGGGGCAGTGGTACCATGACCACTGTGGCTACG
 GGGACATGAGGCCCATCACTGTTGGGGCAAGATCGTGGCTCGCTGTGCCCCATGCCGGGTCTCACCATTC
 CCTGCCTGTGCCGTCATCGCTCCAACTTCAACTACTTCTACCAACGGGAAACGGATCACGAGGAGCCGGCAGTC
 CTTAAGGAAGAGCAGGGCACTCAGAGCCAGGGCCGGCTGGACAGAGGAGTCCAGCGGAAGGTCA
 GGGGATCCTCTGCAAGGCTGGGGGACCTGGAGAATGCAGACAGTGCCGAAGGGCAGCTGCCCTAGAGAA
 40 GTGTAACGTCAAGGCCAACGAGAACGTGGACTTGCGGAGGTCCCTTATGCCCTCTGCCGACACCAGCCGGAA
 ACAGATTGTGA

Table 6: SEQ ID NO. 6:

45 Nucleotide sequence of IRK1

ATGGGCAGTGTGCGAACCAACCGCTATAGCATTGCTCTCGGAAGAGGACGGCATGAAGTTGCCACCATGGCAG
 TTGCCAATGGCTTGGGATGGAAAAGTAAAGTCACACTCGCAACAGTGTAGGAGCCGCTTGTGAAGAAAGA
 50 TGGCCACTGTAATGTTCAAGTTCATCACAGTTGGGAAAGGACAACGGTACCTGCTGACATTTCAGTACGTGT
 GTGGACATCGCTGGCGGTGGATGCTGGTTATCTTTCGCTAGCTTGTCTCGTGGCTGTTTGGCTGTG
 TGTTTGGCTGATAGCTTGCTCCATGGAGATCTGGATGCACTAAGGAGAGCAACGCTGTGTGAGGTCAA
 CAGCTTCACAGCTGCCCTTCTTCTCCATTGAGACCCAGAACACATCGCTATGGGTCCGATGTGTCACGGAT
 GAATGCCGATTGCGGTGTTCATGGTTGTTCCAGTCAGTGTGGCTGCAATTGAGGAGACTCTTGTCTTCAGT
 55 CCGTCATGGCAAAGATGGCAAAGCAAAGAAAAGAAATGAGACTCTTGTCTTCAGTCACAATGCTGTGATTGCCAT
 GAGAGATGGCAAGCTGTGTTGATGTCAGTGGAGTAGGCAACCTCGGAAAGCCACTTGGTAGAAGCTCATGTTGCA
 GCCCAGCTCCTCAAATCCAGAATTACTCTGAAGGGAAACATCCCCTGGATCAAATAGACATCAATGTTGCT

TTGACAGTGGATTGACCGTATTTCTGGTATCCCAACTACTATTGCCATGAAATAGATGAAGATAGTCCTT
 ATATGATTGAGCAAGCAGGACATTGATAATGCAGACTTGAAATTGTTGTGATACTAGAAGGCATGGTGGAGCC
 ACTGCCATGACAACACAGTGTCTAGTTCTTGGCCAACGAGATCCTTGGGCCACCGCTATGAGCCAGTGC
 TCTTGAGGAGAACGACTACTATAAAGTGGACTATTGAGGTTCATAGACTACAGAAGTACCCAAACACTCCCCT
 5 TTGTAGTGCCAGAGACTTAGCAGAAAAGAAATATATTCTCTCAAATGCTAACTCATTGCTATGAAAATGAAGTT
 GCCCTTACAAGCAAAGAGGAAGATGACAGTGAAATGGGTTCCAGAAAGCACCAGTACAGACACACCTCTGACA
 TCGACCTTCACAACCAGGCAAGTGTACCTCTAGAGCCCAGACCCTTACGGCGAGAATCGGAGATATGA

Sub A' 10 TABLE *X 31*
 SEQ ID NO. *X*: human ROMK2 (Genbank accession number U12542)

15 ATGTTCAAACATCTCGAAATGGTCGTCACTCGCTTTTGGCATTCTCGCAAAGAGCAAGGCTAGTCTCCA
 AAGATGGAAGGTGCAACATAGAATTGCAATGTGGAGGCACAGTCAGGTTATATTCTTGTGGACATCTGGAC
 AACGGTACTTGACCTCAAGTGGAGATACAAATGACCATTTCATCACAGCCTCTGGGAGTTGGTTTCTT
 GGTCTCCTGTGGTATGCACTAGCGTACATTCAAAAGACCTCCCGAATTCCATCCTCTGCAATCACACTCCC
 GTGTGGAGAATATTAATGGCTTGACCTCAGTTCTGTTCTGGAGACTCAAGTGAATTGGATATGGATT
 20 CAGGTGTGTGACAGAACAGTGTGCCACTGCCATTTCAGCTTCTGTTATCTTCAGTCTATACTTGGAGTTATAATCAAT
 TCTTCATGTGTGGGCCATCTAGCCAAGATCTCCAGGCCAAAAACGTGCCAGACATTACGTTAGCAAGA
 ACGCAGTGATCAGCAAACGGGAGGGAAAGCTTGCCTCTTAATCCAGTGGCTAATCTCAGGAAGAGCCTTCTT
 TGCGAGTCACATTATGAAAGCTTCTGAAGACCACAGTCACTCCTGAAGGAGAGACCAATTATTTGGACCAGATC
 AATATCAACTTGTAGTTGACGCTGGAAATGAAAATTATTCTTCATCTCCATTGACAATTACCATGTCATTG
 25 ATCACAAACAGCCCTTCTCCACATGGCAGCGGAGACCCCTCTCCAGCAGGACTTGAATTAGTGGTTTTAGA
 TGGCACAGTGGAGTCCACCAGTGCTACCTGCCAAGTCCGGACATCCTATGTCCCAGAGGAGGTGCTTGGGCTAC
 CGTTTGCTCCATAGTATCCAAGACAAAGGAAGGGAAATACCGAGTGGATTCCATAACTTAGCAAGACAGTGG
 AAGTGGAGACCCCTCACTGTGCCATGTGCTTATAATGAGAAAGATGTTAGAGCCAGGATGAAGAGAGGCTATGA
 CAACCCCAACTCATCTGTCAGAAGTCAATGAAACAGATGACACCAAAATGTAA

30

Table 8

46

HERG in Δ trk1 Δ trk2 Δ lok1 in DPM -HIS medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 38 hours growth. Starting culture 0.03 OD. Detection OD620nm.

Inhibitors (30 μ M)	Exp. 1	Exp. 2	Exp. 3	Exp. 4	Mean growth	St. Dev.
Terfenadine	0.006	0.006	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.0
Pimozide	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.0045	0.0
Diphenhydramine	0.095	0.151	0.17	0.186	0.1505	0.04
Ziprasidone	0.006	0.01	0.012	0.015	0.01075	0.0
Fexofenadine	0.082	0.144	0.159	0.156	0.13525	0.0
Sertindole	0.007	0.004	0.007	0.005	0.00575	0.0
Loratadine	0.024	0.016	0.062	0.014	0.029	0.0
DMSO control	0.162	0.163	0.136	0.146	0.15175	0.0

Wild-type cells in DPM medium with 5 mM or 80 mM KCl after 24 hours growth.
Starting culture 0.01 OD, Detection at OD 620 nm.

TABLE 9

LacZ in wild-type cells in DPM-HSI-TRP medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 24 hours growth: detection with the TBOPX kit. ASSAY 1

LacZ in wild-type cells in DPM -HIS/-TRP medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 24 hours growth; detection with the TROPIX kit. ASSAY 1

Inhibitors (30 μ M)	Exp. 1	Exp. 2	Exp. 3	Exp. 4	Mean growth	St. Dev.
Terfenadine	4497	4481	5058	5381	4854.25	441.936176
Pimozone	357.4	747.9	804.6	585.4	623.825	200.443648
Diphenhydramine	2806	3181	4178	4864	3757.25	937.881789
Ziprasidone	55.32	70.29	70.3	77.18	68.2725	9.22481933
Fexofenadine	3326	2938	3377	4659	3575	748.783458
Serindole	4165	2099	4588	3069	3480.25	1121.45304
Loratadine	4905	5141	1857	3266	3792.25	1536.17173
DMSO control	3172	4129	4984	5077	4340.5	888.190858

acZ in wild-type cells in DPM -HIS-/TRP medium with 0.5 mM CscI as activator after 24 hours growth; detection with TROPiX kit. ASSAY 2

LacZ in wild-type cells in DPM -HIS/-TRP medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 24 hours growth; detection with TROPiX-kit. ASSAY 2

Inhibitors (30 µM)	Exp. 1	Exp. 2	Exp. 3	Exp. 4	Mean growth	St. Dev.
Terfenadine (0.5 Cs)	3439	3795	3698	3388	3580	197.394698
Pimozide (0.5 Cs)	905	2176	496.5	573.4	1037.725	779.2749
Diphenhydramine (0.5 Cs)	3468	2980	3062	3561	3267.75	289.383684
Ziprasidone (0.5 Cs)	62.52	44.3	49.71	51.87	52.1	7.64158361
Fexofenadine (0.5 Cs)	3533	3502	3661	3569	3566.25	68.8446318
Sertindole (0.5 Cs)	3992	3076	3972	2782	3455.5	619.738386
Loratadine (0.5 Cs)	3553	1965	3590	2478	2896.5	807.211042
DMSO control (0.5 Cs)	3520	3218	3460	3087	3321.25	203.540946

Table 10

HERG in Δ trkC2 Δ trk1 in DPM -HIS medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 38 hours growth. Starting culture 0.03 OD. Detection at OD 620 nm.

HERG in Δ trk1 Δ trk2 Δ tok1 in DPM -HIS medium with 0.5 mM CsCl as activator after 38 hours growth. Starting culture 0.03 OD. Detection at OD 620 nm.

Inhibitors (30 μ M)	Exp. 1	Exp. 2	Exp. 3	Exp. 4	Mean growth	St. Dev.
Terfenadine	0.006	0.006	0.005	0.007	0.006	0.0008165
Pimozide	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.0045	0.00057735
Diphenhydramine	0.095	0.151	0.17	0.186	0.1505	0.03966947
Ziprasidone	0.006	0.01	0.012	0.015	0.01075	0.00377492
Fexofenadine	0.082	0.144	0.159	0.156	0.13525	0.0360867
Sertindole	0.007	0.004	0.007	0.005	0.00575	0.0015
Loratadine	0.024	0.016	0.062	0.014	0.029	0.02242023
DMSO control	0.162	0.163	0.136	0.146	0.15175	0.01307351

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TABLE 11

Wild-type cells in DPM medium with 5 mM or 80 mM KCl after 24 hours growth.
Starting culture 0.01 OD. Detection at OD 620 nm.

Wild-type cells in DPM medium with 5 mM or 80 mM KCl after 24 hours growth.
Starting culture 0.01 OD. Detection at OD 620 nm.

TABLE 12

**p423GPD (YM194) and p423GPD-ROMK2 (YM256) in Δ trk1 Δ trk2 Δ tok1
in DPM -HIS 5 mM KCl, pH 6.5 after 24 hours growth;
starting OD 0.01. Averages**

	194 SD	256 SD	
DMSO (0.5%)	0.023	0.0036	0.19
Cells	0.028	0.0012	0.23
2 mM RbCl	0.048	0.0052	0.44
			0.033
Signal to noise ratio			
S/N			
DMSO (0.5%)	8.2		
Cells	8.3		
2 mM RbCl	8.46		

Table 13: SEQ ID NO. 31 – Nucleotide sequence of p423 GPD-hROMK2
 (Accession No. U 12542)

gacgaaaggcctcgataccctattttataggttaatgtcatgataataatggttcttagatgatccaatatcaaagg
 5 aaatgatagcattgaaggatgagactaatccaattgaggagtggcagcatatagaacagctaaaggtagtgctgaag
 gaagcatacgataccccgcatgaaatggataatcacaggaggactagactacccttcacccataatagacg
 catataagtacgcatttaagcataaacacgcactatgccgttctcatgttatatatatacaggcaacacgcagatata
 ggtgcgacgtgaacagttagtgcgcagctcgcttgcatttcggaaagcgctcggttcggaaacgcgttgaagt
 tcctattccgaagtcctattctctagaaagtataggaactcagagcgtttgaaaaccaaaagcgtctgaagacgca
 10 cttcaaaaaaccaaaaacgcaccggactgtAACGAGCTACTAAATATTGCGAATACCGCTTCCACAAACATTGCTCA
 aaagtatctttgttatatatctctgtctatccctatataacctaccatccacccatccgtccttgcatttgcatttgcatt
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 agaattatgcgtgcgttgcataaccatgagtgataacactgcggccaaacttctgacaacgatcgaggaccgaag
 gagctaacccgtttttgcacaacatggggatcatgttaactcgccgtatcggtggaaaccggagctgaatgaagccata
 ccaaacgacgacgacaccacgatgcctgttagcaatggcaacaacgttgcgcaactattaactggcgaactactt
 30 actctagctcccgcaacaattaatagactggatggaggcggataaagtgcaggaccactctgcgtcgcccttcc
 ggctggctggttattgtgtataaatctggagccgggtgagcgtgggtctcgccgtatctgcagcactggggccagatgg
 taagccctccgtatcgtagttactacacgacggggagtcaggcaactatggatgaacgaaatagacagatcgctgag

ataggtgcctcactgattaaggcattggtaactgtcagaccaagttactcatatacttttagattgttaaaacttcattttaa
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5 taccaaatactgtcctctagtgttagccgtagttaggccaccactcaagaactctgttagcaccgcctacataccctcgct
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